



Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

News Release

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Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Authorize Application to Patent 28,930 Acres in the Wickenburg Area

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to apply for a United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) patent in the hopes of acquiring 28,930 acres of Vulture Mountain. This acquisition would make it the second largest Maricopa County park, closely behind White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

“Maricopa County is the fastest growing county in the nation and the county park system is rapidly being surrounded by urban development,” says Chairman Max Wilson, District 4. “Increase in parks acreage has lagged far behind the population growth. The northwest areas of Maricopa County are growing especially fast and a new park will help meet the recreational needs of a larger population. The county also protects park land from certain high-impact uses and is a leader in preserving these public areas.”

BLM’s Recreation and Public Purposes Patents allow Maricopa County to own these lands at no cost when used for recreational purposes. This federal process takes several years due to the required surveying of the area. The county’s only initial cost will be the \$100 application filing fee.

The park’s boundary would be the Hassayampa River Preserve to the east, Vulture Mountain Road to the west, and include all major peaks of the mountain. The area has been a longtime favorite with locals who challenge themselves with the strenuous yet rewarding hikes, and naturalists flock to the lush riparian area protected by the Preserve.

For more information, contact the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation department at 602-506-2930, or visit www.maricopa.gov/parks.